DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT.

Reviews the Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in Mysore for the year 1927-28.

READ—

Letter No. 2659—C. S., dated the 20th November 1928, from the Registrar of Co-operative Societies in Mysore, submitting a report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in the State for the year ended 30th June 1928.

ORDER NO. D. 12691-12700— C. S. 58-28-4, DATED 31ST MAY 1929.

Recorded.

2. Mr. K. H. Ramayya, continued to be in charge of the Department throughout the year, except for a very short period from the 3rd to 12th January 1928, when he was absent on privilege leave, and the Assistant Registrar Mr. K. Subba Rao, was in charge of the Registrar's duties in addition to his own. There was no change in personnel of Assistant Registrars; the marginally noted transfers were effected about the middle of the year under review in the interests of public service.

1. Mr. R. Ramachandra Rao Bhombore, B.A., from Bangalore Division to Shimoga.
2. ,, P. A Krishnaswamy Iyer, B.A., from Shimoga to Tumkur.
3. ,, K. Subba Rao, B.A., LL.B., from Mysore to Bangalore Division.
4. ,, D. Venkate Urs, B.A., from Tumkur to Mysore Division.

3. The scheme of Honorary Organisers was continued during the year, there being seven organisers in all for the whole State, including Mr. D. Kongadiappa who is an additional organiser for the Bangalore District, for the development of Depressed Classes Societies in the District. There were 23 Honorary Supervisors working at the end of the year.

4. The number of Co-operative Societies in the State rose from 1748 to 1866, the number of members from 98,933 to 1,07,223 and the working capital from 112 lakhs to 131 lakhs. Government are glad to learn that during the year a large number of rural credit societies helped in the supply of improved agricultural implements, seeds and manures recommended by the Agricultural Department, resulting in increased sales of these materials and that the Apex Bank readily financed these societies for the purpose at a cheap rate of interest. The question of organising co-operative finance for cardamom growers requires early consideration, and Government trust that some material progress will be made in the course of this year.

5. Government watch with interest the experiment being tried at Ramohalli in the Bangalore Taluk to grant "Produce" loans to Agriculturists through Local Co-operative Societies in order to help them to wait for a better market for their produce, and trust that the experiment will meet with success as anticipated by the Registrar. They are also pleased to note that special societies were started for the benefit of the labourers of the Bangalore Mills and that sericultural, house building, and hand loom weaving co-operation received great impetus during the year. Particular attention was also given to the improvement of the condition of the depressed classes by means of propaganda work, by the starting of special co-operative societies exclusively for their benefit, and providing such societies with working capital in the initial stages, both by means of advances from Government and loans from the Apex Bank.

6. It is also reported that further progress was made in the development of the Gottigere Adikarnataka Colony, and Government trust that this interesting experiment will pave the way for the establishment of similar colonies elsewhere in the near future.

7. The total transactions of all the Societies during the year amounted to Rs. 43,004,931 as against Rs. 35,810,958 during the last year, yielding a net profit of Rs. 4,87,674 as against Rs. 4,59,177 in the previous year. The total Reserve Fund has increased from Rs. 1,756,803 last year to Rs. 1,830,493 in 1927-28. The real increase is greater than these figures would indicate; for, last year's figure included other funds, such as, building fund, rebate fund, etc., which have since been separated out. Such other funds amounted to Rs. 87,186 in 1927-28.

8. Government regret to notice that the large proportion of overdue loans to the total outstanding has become quite a feature of the working of the Societies, and is showing a tendency to increase. In the year under report, overdue loans accounted for Rs. 11·90 lakhs, out of a total outstanding of Rs. 32·68 lakhs in Agricultural Societies and Rs. 12·38 lakhs out of a total of Rs. 46·42 lakhs in Non-Agricultural Societies. This is a matter for serious concern, as want of punctuality indicates that the movement has not inculcated thrift and business habits. Special efforts should be made to impress the importance of a faithful fulfilment of business engagements, in order that co-operation might not suffer in a very essential part of its educative mission.

9. The foundation stone for the new building for the Apex Bank was laid by His Highness the Yuvaraja of Mysore in February 1928.

10. This Bank made rapid progress during the year. The total transactions increased from about 34 lakhs in 1926-27 to nearly 58 lakhs in the year under report. Though Government placed funds at its disposal for financing at a low rate of interest rural societies for the purchase of agricultural implements, seeds and manures and house building societies, yet the Bank without drawing upon these resources, made its own funds available for achieving the objects of Government. The popularity of the Bank is also shown by the large increase in deposits necessitating a reduction in the rates of interest allowed. Government desire to congratulate the Bank on its progress and the co-operative spirit displayed by it and wish it continued prosperity and an enlarged sphere of usefulness.

11. The Central Co-operative Bank, Bangalore, also showed good progress, it having for the first time, extended its benefits to individual shareholders in the Chitaldrug, Shimoga and Kadur Districts. With all that, however, it was not able fully to utilise the capital at its disposal and a sum of 3¾ lakhs was locked up as fixed deposit in the Mysore Bank. Government hope that this Bank will also further widen its sphere of action and extend the benefits of co-operation to a much larger circle of the raiyat population. Government regret to note that the District Central Banks have not succeeded very appreciably in tapping local capital for financing rural societies. The Registrar is requested to see what improvements, whether of management or of organisation, are necessary to make them fulfil their purpose better. It is heartening to be assured that credit and non-credit agricultural societies are showing good progress, as also the non-agricultural co-operative societies. Of the latter the Weavers Co-operative Societies, whose progress is reported to be not very encouraging require special attention in order to ameliorate the condition of the weavers. It has been suggested that this object could be more easily secured by enlisting the sympathy and co-operation of the merchants who at present finance small weavers, and by interesting them in improved methods and new patterns. This suggestion deserves a trial in selected places, in consultation with the Industries and Commerce Department. More attention should also be paid to develop the Sericultural Co-operative Societies. The Registrar says that more staff is necessary to advise these Societies in the technique of the industry. He may submit suitable proposals in consultation with the Director of Industries and Commerce for the consideration of Government. It is also reported that the working of the non-credit artisan societies is not encouraging but Government would like to have more information about them and to know in what respects they could be helped.

12. As regards grain banks, the Registrar is requested once again to submit concrete proposals for the help which he thinks they need from Government. There were only 55 such banks working during the year as against 56 last year. While reviewing the report of the Department for 1926-27, the Registrar was requested to investigate the causes for the decline of these banks and to suggest remedial action. His report is still due and Government await it with interest.

13. Government are glad to note the progress made in the various activities for the amelioration of the Depressed Classes and trust that this important work will continue to receive earnest attention.

14. There was a further decline in the number of suits for adjudication during the year. Out of 1943 suits entertained and 892 suits pending disposal at the beginning of the year, 2143 suits were disposed of during the year leaving a balance of 692 suits pending at the close of the year. Permission was also freely granted to Societies to seek immediate relief in the Civil Courts as against defaulters. Out of a total of 6265 decrees for execution only 1584 were executed during the year leaving

a balance of 4711 decrees still to be executed. This is unsatisfactory and it should be possible to reduce pendency in this important branch of work very early. A report as to what progress is made in this direction should be submitted on the 1st July next for the orders of Government.

15. The fourteenth Mysore Provincial Conference was held at Mysore under the Presidency of Rajamantrapravina Mr. C. S. Balasundaram Iyer, Member of Council.

16. Government are pleased to note that the Department has done good work during the year under the direction of the Registrar Mr. K. H. Ramayya. There is however a very vast field before it as only 8·9 per cent of the population has till now been touched by the movement. Government trust that efforts will be made to extend the benefits of co-operation in parts of the State, especially the malnad where it has so far made little headway.

N. RAMA RAO,
Secretary to Government,
Development Departments.

GENERAL SECRETARIAT.

Exemption from payment of toll at the Belur Toll-gate.

ORDER NO. CAMP 5-7—R. M., DATED CAMP MYSORE, 11TH JUNE 1929.

Government are pleased to direct that cars, carts and other vehicular traffic that pay toll at the Belur Toll Gate be exempted from payment of toll again on the same day at the Chikkanhalli Toll Gate and *vice versa*. This may be included in the sale notifications in respect of these two Toll Gates.

B. NARAYANASWAMI IYENGAR,
Offg. *General Secretary to Government.*

Reduction of toll-gates (Provincial and District Fund.)

READ—

Government Order No. L. 8795-874—L. B. 49-25-28, dated the 9th June 1927, passing orders on the report of the Joint Toll-gates Committee about the establishment and administration of toll-gates on the Provincial, District Fund and Municipal Roads.

2. Government Order Nos. R. 5166-84—R. M. 9-27-4, dated the 13th January 1928 and R. 5942-60—R. M. 9-27-11, dated 6th February 1928 and R. 6338-56—R. M. 9-27-25, dated 13th February 1928, fixing the location of toll-gates to be newly opened on the State Fund Roads under the order of June 1927, and issuing instructions and revised rules in regard to the administration of the said tolls.

3. Government Order No. R. 8729-40—R. M. 9-27-53, dated 15th May 1928, passing orders on the report of the Toll-Committee appointed to review the arrangements ordered in the Government Orders referred to above.

4. Government Order No. L. 3940-64—L. B. 111-28-1, dated 1st December 1928, appointing a Committee consisting of the marginally noted gentlemen to go into the question of reducing the number of toll-gates established on the several Provincial and District Boards roads.

1. The Revenue Commissioner in Mysore (Chairman.)
2. The Chief Secretary to the Government of Mysore.
3. The President, District Board, Bangalore.
4. The President, District Board, Hassan.
5. Mr. K. V. Anantaraman, B.A., Deputy Commissioner, Mysore.
6. Mr. Nilligiri Sanjiviah, Member, Representative Assembly.
7. Mr. M. S. Linge Gowda, Member, Representative Assembly.

5. Letter No. L. 6215—L. B. 111-28-23, dated 22nd March 1929, from the Secretary, Toll-gate Committee, forwarding the * report of the Committee.

(* Printed as annexure.)

ORDER NO. L. 8055-73—L. B. 111-28-30, DATED 31ST MAY 1929.

The Committee were asked to examine the question of reducing the number of toll-gates established on the several Provincial and District Boards Roads.